

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03236 081020Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-08 INR-07 /042 W

-----081022Z 069732 /10

R 080849Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5963

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3236

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: U.S./JAPAN TRADE ISSUES AND THE FUKUDA VISIT

1. SUMMARY. JAPANESE TRADE OFFICIALS ARE ENDEAVORING TO TREAT OUTSTANDING U.S./JAPAN TRADE ISSUES AS LIGHTLY AS POSSIBLE DURING CARTER/FUKUDA SUMMIT. EMBASSY HAS INDICATED TO THEM THAT U.S. SIDE MAY INSIST ON SPECIFIC MENTION IN COMMUNIQUE OF COLOR TVS, CITRUS AND OTHER ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. JAPANESE LANGUAGE PRESS IN TOKYO HAS REPORTED COMMENTS OF MITI VICE MINISTER WADA THAT JAPANESE EXPORTS OF STEEL AND COLOR TV SETS ARE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED APART FROM CARTER/FUKUDA SUMMIT. HE WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT GILMORE STEEL CORPORATION COMPLAINT THAT JAPANESE FIRMS ARE DUMPING SHEET STEEL IS NOT A SERIOUS PROBLEM. A MITI OFFICIAL BROUGHT THIS PRESS REPORT TO OUR ATTENTION AND SAID THAT WADA HAD BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD. WADA DID NOT INTEND TO DOWNPLAY SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, HE DID HOPE THAT THEY WOULD NOT BECOME CONTENTIOUS ISSUES DURING THE FUKUDA VISIT AND THAT THEY COULD BE RESOLVED THROUGH FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASAHI OF MARCH 8 CONTINUES SAME THEME IN REPORT OF VISIT OF MITI AMERICA OCEANIA DIV DIRECTOR
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 03236 081020Z

HAWASAKI TO WASHINGTON. THIS REPORT IS HEADLINED "TRADE ISSUES NOT EXPECTED TO FIGURE IN FUKUDA/CARTER TALKS." ARTICLE REVIEWS STATUS OF COLOR TV AND GILMORE STEEL DUMPING CASE AND SAYS MITI IS OPTIMISTIC, BASED ON REPORTS FROM KAWASAKI, THAT WASHINGTON IS TAKING A "CALM" ATTITUDE.

4. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY,
JAPANESE OFFICIALS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT U.S./JAPAN TRADE
ISSUES CAN BE COVERED IN FUKUDA VISIT COMMUNIQUE ONLY IN
GENERAL TERMS, OMITTING SPECIFIC MENTION OF COLOR TVS,
CITRUS AND STEEL. WE HAVE RESPONDED THAT WE RECOGNIZE
THAT IT IS IN INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES TO KEEP
THESE ISSUES IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE BUT THAT U.S. SIDE
MAY FIND IT NECESSARY TO MAKE SPECIFIC MENTION OF THESE
PROBLEMS. WHILE THESE PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE SOLVED DURING
THE FUKUDA VISIT, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO NOTE IN COMMUNIQUE
THAT BOTH SIDES ARE COMMITTED TO FINDING EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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